

Fishery Management Plan for the State-waters Pacific Cod Season in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, 2007

by

Nicholas H. Sagalkin

January 2007

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

| Weights and measures (metric) | | General | | Measures (fisheries) | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| centimeter | cm | Alaska Department of | | fork length | FL |
| deciliter | dL | Fish and Game | ADF&G | mideye-to-fork | MEF |
| gram | g | Alaska Administrative | | mideye-to-tail-fork | METF |
| hectare | ha | Code | AAC | standard length | SL |
| kilogram | kg | all commonly accepted | | total length | TL |
| kilometer | km | abbreviations | e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc. | | |
| liter | L | | | Mathematics, statistics | |
| meter | m | all commonly accepted | | <i>all standard mathematical</i> | |
| milliliter | mL | professional titles | e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc. | <i>signs, symbols and</i> | |
| millimeter | mm | | @ | <i>abbreviations</i> | |
| | | at | | alternate hypothesis | H _A |
| Weights and measures (English) | | compass directions: | | base of natural logarithm | <i>e</i> |
| cubic feet per second | ft ³ /s | east | E | catch per unit effort | CPUE |
| foot | ft | north | N | coefficient of variation | CV |
| gallon | gal | south | S | common test statistics | (F, t, χ^2 , etc.) |
| inch | in | west | W | confidence interval | CI |
| mile | mi | copyright | © | correlation coefficient | |
| nautical mile | nmi | corporate suffixes: | | (multiple) | R |
| ounce | oz | Company | Co. | correlation coefficient | |
| pound | lb | Corporation | Corp. | (simple) | r |
| quart | qt | Incorporated | Inc. | covariance | cov |
| yard | yd | Limited | Ltd. | degree (angular) | ° |
| | | District of Columbia | D.C. | degrees of freedom | df |
| Time and temperature | | et alii (and others) | et al. | expected value | <i>E</i> |
| day | d | et cetera (and so forth) | etc. | greater than | > |
| degrees Celsius | °C | exempli gratia | | greater than or equal to | ≥ |
| degrees Fahrenheit | °F | (for example) | e.g. | harvest per unit effort | HPUE |
| degrees kelvin | K | Federal Information | | less than | < |
| hour | h | Code | FIC | less than or equal to | ≤ |
| minute | min | id est (that is) | i.e. | logarithm (natural) | ln |
| second | s | latitude or longitude | lat. or long. | logarithm (base 10) | log |
| | | monetary symbols | | logarithm (specify base) | log ₂ , etc. |
| Physics and chemistry | | (U.S.) | \$, ¢ | minute (angular) | ' |
| all atomic symbols | | months (tables and | | not significant | NS |
| alternating current | AC | figures): first three | | null hypothesis | H ₀ |
| ampere | A | letters | Jan,...,Dec | percent | % |
| calorie | cal | registered trademark | ® | probability | P |
| direct current | DC | trademark | ™ | probability of a type I error | |
| hertz | Hz | United States | | (rejection of the null | |
| horsepower | hp | (adjective) | U.S. | hypothesis when true) | α |
| hydrogen ion activity | pH | United States of | | probability of a type II error | |
| (negative log of) | | America (noun) | USA | (acceptance of the null | |
| parts per million | ppm | U.S.C. | United States | hypothesis when false) | β |
| parts per thousand | ppt, ‰ | U.S. state | Code | second (angular) | " |
| | | | use two-letter | standard deviation | SD |
| volts | V | | abbreviations | standard error | SE |
| watts | W | | (e.g., AK, WA) | variance | |
| | | | | population | Var |
| | | | | sample | var |

FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT NO. 07-01

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE STATE-WATERS PACIFIC
COD SEASON IN THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA AREA, 2007**

by

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ABSTRACT

The South Alaska Peninsula Area is scheduled to open for a state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* fishery seven days after the closure of the Western Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fishery. Vessels may not be longer than 58 feet, and the only legal gear types are pot and jig gear. Gear limits are 60 pots (buoy tags required) or 5 jig machines. The guideline harvest level (GHL), 14.3 million pounds, is based upon 25% of the Western Gulf of Alaska Acceptable Biological Catch for Pacific cod. The GHL established for vessels using pot gear is capped at 85% of the total GHL. Managing the fishery close to the GHL is dependent upon the amount of communication between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the fishing fleet. Volunteer reporting from the fishing fleet and tender operators is an important component to the successful management of this fishery. In the absence of information, ADF&G makes conservative estimates. In the past, these estimates have resulted in lost fishing opportunity to portions of the fleet.

Key words: Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*, South Alaska Peninsula Area, harvest strategy, regulations

INTRODUCTION

AREA DESCRIPTION

The South Alaska Peninsula Area for groundfish consists of all waters south of the Alaska Peninsula between a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point and 170° W long., including those waters south of the latitude of Nichols Point near False Pass (Figure 1).

OVERVIEW

In 1996, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted state-waters Pacific cod management plans in five groundfish areas: Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and the South Alaska Peninsula. Harvest during the state-waters seasons is limited to pot, mechanical jig, and hand troll gear types. The South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific cod Management Plan 5 AAC 28.577 is located in the 2006-2007 Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations.

There are two Pacific cod fisheries that occur inside state waters. During the federal Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) Pacific cod fishery (Area 610), the state opens a “parallel” season inside state waters. The parallel fishery opens and closes concurrent to the federal season (outside 3-nmi from shore). This fishery is separate from the state-waters Pacific cod season. The state-waters season follows after federal/parallel Pacific cod season.

Parallel Season

When the federal WGOA is open, the state opens a parallel season in state waters. Unless specifically prohibited, the use of the same gear types in the federal WGOA Pacific cod fishery are allowed in the parallel fishery; however, most of state waters are closed to non-pelagic trawl gear. During the parallel season, Stellar seas lion restrictions generally match federal management measures (5 AAC 28.087), with the exception of the haul out at Caton Island. All vessels, except those using jig gear, must have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS; 5 AAC 28.087). Each year, the federal season opens January 1 to pots, longline and jig gear and January 20 to trawl gear. The federal fishery is closed when the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is met or incidental bycatch of Pacific halibut exceeds bycatch limits. Pacific cod harvested in state waters during the parallel season are not counted against the state-waters Pacific cod GHL. Information regarding federal fisheries openings can be obtained by calling the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) at (907) 481-1700 or on their web site <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>.

Exceptions to gear permitted in the parallel season are described under 5 AAC 39.164, Non-Pelagic Trawl Gear Restrictions. For more information regarding closed areas, contact ADF&G or NMFS.

During the parallel season, the holder of a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) miscellaneous finfish permit may participate within state waters, regardless of License Limitation Program (LLP) status, after completing a Westward Region parallel groundfish registration. However, vessels that possess a federal fisheries permit should be aware that they must comply with federal regulations regarding observer coverage and logbook requirements when operating within state waters unless they relinquish their federal permit. For additional information regarding requirements pertaining to holders of federal fisheries permits while operating within state waters, contact NMFS or NMFS enforcement (contacts listed in Appendix A1).

State-waters Pacific Cod Season

The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season is exclusive registration. This means that a vessel validly registered for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery within the South Alaska Peninsula Area may not be used to take Pacific cod in any other exclusive Pacific cod registration area during a state-waters season. If exclusive area designations are relaxed in the Kodiak or South Alaska Peninsula areas after October 30, vessels registered in these areas may at that time, reregister for either of those areas. Additional requirements for the state-waters Pacific cod season include the following:

- Operators must possess a 2007 CFEC interim use permit card for miscellaneous finfish for the gear type to be used. Vessels must be registered for the state-waters season. Please note that a Westward Region Parallel Groundfish Registration (federal/parallel fishery) is different than the exclusive registration needed for the state-waters Pacific cod season in the South Alaska Peninsula Area.
- Registrations may be obtained at ADF&G offices in Kodiak, Dutch Harbor and seasonally at Sand Point and King Cove. They may also be obtained via FAX to the Kodiak office at (907) 486-1824.
- Vessels may not be longer than 58' overall length. This length restriction may be lifted, by emergency order, after October 30 if the GHL will not be obtained by December 31.
- Vessels may not use pot and jig gear at the same time. However, operators may change to a different gear registration by written request, in person, or by FAX to the Kodiak ADF&G office or in Sand Point or King Cove when staff are available.
- Vessels may operate both hand troll and mechanical jig gear at the same time. Separate CFEC cards and fish tickets are required for each gear type at the time of landing.
- There is no regulatory allocation for mechanical jig/hand troll gears. After the pot gear season is closed, the state will manage the jig fleet for the remainder of the total state-waters season GHL. If the remainder of the GHL is not harvested with jigs before October 31, the season may be reopened to both pot and jig gear by emergency order.
- If a significant portion of the GHL remains to be harvested in the state-waters fishery after October 30, the state-waters fishery may close and immediately reopen with gear and vessel size restrictions lifted.

- No more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel, unless the pot limit has been rescinded by emergency order on or beginning after October 30. Buoy tags are required when the 60 pot limit is in effect. Tags are available, free of charge from the Kodiak and Dutch Harbor offices. Arrangements will be made to distribute buoy tags locally in Sand Point and King Cove prior to the fishery opening date. After ADF&G groundfish personnel have left Sand Point and King Cove, buoy tags can be obtained through the mail from the Kodiak office.
- No more than 5 hand troll lines or mechanical jig machines may be operated from a vessel unless the jig limit has been rescinded on October 31. Jig machines may not have more than five lines, with no more than 30 hooks per line.
- Tenders for Pacific cod in the state-waters fishery must be registered prior to beginning tender operations. Tender operators must report to Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) daily. Reports must include vessel names making deliveries, time of the offload, and amount of offload.
- Vessels may not be registered for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery and for salmon seine fisheries at the same time.

STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADF&G manages the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod season in accordance with the South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan found on pages 52-54 of the 2006-2007 Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations.

ADF&G is encouraging participants in this fishery to participate in a volunteer catch reporting program to improve the amount of information the department has to manage this fishery. In recent years, the pot fleet has harvested quota quickly, and the department has had difficulty closing the fishery close to the desired harvest level without going over or coming under the 85% pot cap.

VOLUNTEER CATCH REPORTING

ADF&G will manage the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season from inseason catch reports (see Appendix B) provided by permit holders. Inseason management will allow for real-time fishery decisions and the ability to consider changes in effort, fleet behavior, and weather. ADF&G will make every effort to allow sufficient time for permit holders to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for a short advance-notice closure.

Catch reports will be taken using satellite dispatch system and e-mail. **The ADF&G Kodiak office uses Matrix¹ dispatch services; the office number is 7894. The ADF&G office also uses Stratos¹ dispatch services; the office number is 0083.** Vessels without satellite dispatch may use SSB to report, and code sheets will be available to keep information confidential. Vessel operators will be issued a reporting worksheet during registration for inseason reporting. Operators will be asked during the registration process which method they will use to submit daily reports. Reports will initially be taken daily at 8:00 AM.

¹Use of trade names does not constitute an endorsement from ADF&G.

Current fishery status will also be available on the ADF&G recorded message phone at 486-5176. Messages on the recorded message phone will be updated daily. Updates, changes to the reporting schedule, and closure announcements will be distributed via e-mail, FAX, and passed along to all participating processors.

2007 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The guideline harvest level for the state-waters Pacific cod season is determined annually as a percentage of the WGOA Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for Pacific cod.

The percentage of the ABC for the WGOA that is to be allocated to the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters season Pacific cod season is contained in 5 AAC 28.577 South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan (e)(1) and (e)(2). The 2007 GHl for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state managed Pacific cod fishery will be 14.8 million pounds.

BYCATCH

- Lingcod may be retained up to 20% by weight.
- Vessels registered for black rockfish may retain 100% of their harvest when the South Alaska Peninsula Area is open to directed fishing. After the directed black rockfish fishery has been closed by emergency order, black rockfish may be retained up to 5% by weight.
- Bycatch of octopus may be retained up to 20% by weight of Pacific cod and landed on the miscellaneous finfish card required to harvest Pacific cod.
- The National Marine Fisheries Service determines bycatch percentages for all other species. Permissible bycatch percentages vary under the federal system, so it is advisable to check with NMFS management for the status of all species except black rockfish and lingcod (contacts listed in Appendix A1).

INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

The state-waters Pacific cod season will be managed inseason from information gathered from volunteer catch reports, weekly processor reports, dockside sampling information, and fish ticket data. All actions pertaining to regulatory changes in the state-waters season will be published in news releases and emergency orders as needed. Weekly updates will be released each Monday while the state-waters season is open. News releases, weekly catch updates, and emergency orders may be found at the following locations or obtained through the following methods:

- Available in the shellfish and groundfish management offices, ADF&G office building 2nd floor, 211 Mission Road, Kodiak.
- Distributed to a list of recipients maintained by shellfish management staff in Kodiak via FAX, e-mail, and standard mail.
- Posted on the ADF&G website at: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/>
- Inseason closure announcements following the National Weather Service broadcast at 0800 and 1800 hrs on 4125 kHz SSB.
- Management biologists telephone or FAX processing facilities participating in the fishery each fishing period; these processors typically inform the fleet and post the releases in conspicuous places in their operational offices.

- Weekly harvest updates containing preliminary catch statistics are available after 16:00 hours every Monday while the state-waters season fishery is open. Since the creation of these fishery updates requires information from all the processors participating in the fishery, it is often the case that during the busiest times for processors, the updates may not be available until Tuesday morning.

STATE-WATERS SEASON LEGAL GEAR AND POT LIMITS

During the state-waters Pacific cod season, Pacific cod may be taken only with jig gear or groundfish pots, 5 AAC 28.577 South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod Management Plan. No more than 60 pots or 5 mechanical jig or hand troll lines may be operated from a vessel. Pot gear must contain an escape mechanism as defined in 5 AAC 39.145, Escape Mechanism For Shellfish and Bottomfish Pots. Vessels may not fish with pots and jig gear at the same time, but vessels may switch registration.

All commercial kegs and buoys for groundfish pots must be marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel number of the vessel operating the gear. This number must include leading zeros as applicable.

A groundfish pot is a pot with individual tunnel eye openings with a perimeter 36 inches or less. This is achieved by placing rigid excluder bars across the tunnel eyes to prevent the entry of Pacific halibut into the pot.

Vessels may simultaneously register for the parallel Walleye pollock season in the South Alaska Peninsula Area while participating in the Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

BUOY TAGS

Under 5 AAC 28.050 Lawful Gear for Groundfish, there is information pertaining to buoy tag requirements and lost tag replacement procedures.

Each pot used to fish for Pacific cod in the South Alaska state-waters season while the 60 pot limit is in effect is required to be tagged with a department-supplied buoy tag. Buoy tags are available prior to the fishing season in the Kodiak and Dutch Harbor offices. There is no charge for buoy tags. Each tag should be placed on the main buoy or trailer buoy. If tags are lost, replacement tags are available at the offices listed above through the methods described in 5 AAC 28.050 Lawful Gear For Groundfish. If pot limits are relaxed on October 31, buoy tags are not required.

POT STORAGE

The regulation 5 AAC 28.571 Groundfish Pot Storage Requirements for the South Alaska Peninsula Area states that groundfish pots may be stored with all bait and bait containers removed and doors secured fully open on rectangular pots and with the doors not secured closed for pyramid and conical pots in water 25 fathoms or less.

Vessels that participate in the federal/parallel Pacific cod fishery prior to the opening of the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters season may leave their pots baited and at fishing depth in between seasons. No more than 60 pots may be in operation at the time of the state-waters season opening and those 60 pots must have a buoy tag attached. Gear may be legally stored in compliance with the above listed requirements. Pots left beyond three miles at the opening of the state-waters season are subject to applicable federal regulations.

LANDING REQUIREMENTS

The landing requirements are specified in **5 AAC 28.581 (1) and (2) Landing Requirements of the South Alaska Peninsula Area**. After 48 hours from the time of closure of the state-waters Pacific cod season, vessels that have participated in the fishery may not have Pacific cod onboard unless cod has been designated as bycatch for another fishery and the amount onboard does not exceed the permissible percentage. If the vessel has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the vessel operator, and the vessel has contacted the department, allowances may be made for additional time on a case by case basis. Vessels requesting additional time to arrive at their delivery locations must have departed the fishing grounds immediately after the closure and proceeded directly to their port of delivery or processing location. At the time of closure all gear must comply with applicable state storage requirements.

DOCKSIDE SAMPLING PROGRAM

ADF&G conducts dockside sampling on landings of Pacific cod, lingcod and black rockfish harvested from the state managed fisheries. This is the primary source for biological information from these fisheries. Samplers will collect average fish weight, length frequencies, age structures, and determine maturity. Please allow dockside samplers access to your catch and assist them by answering questions regarding fishing effort and location.

FIGURE

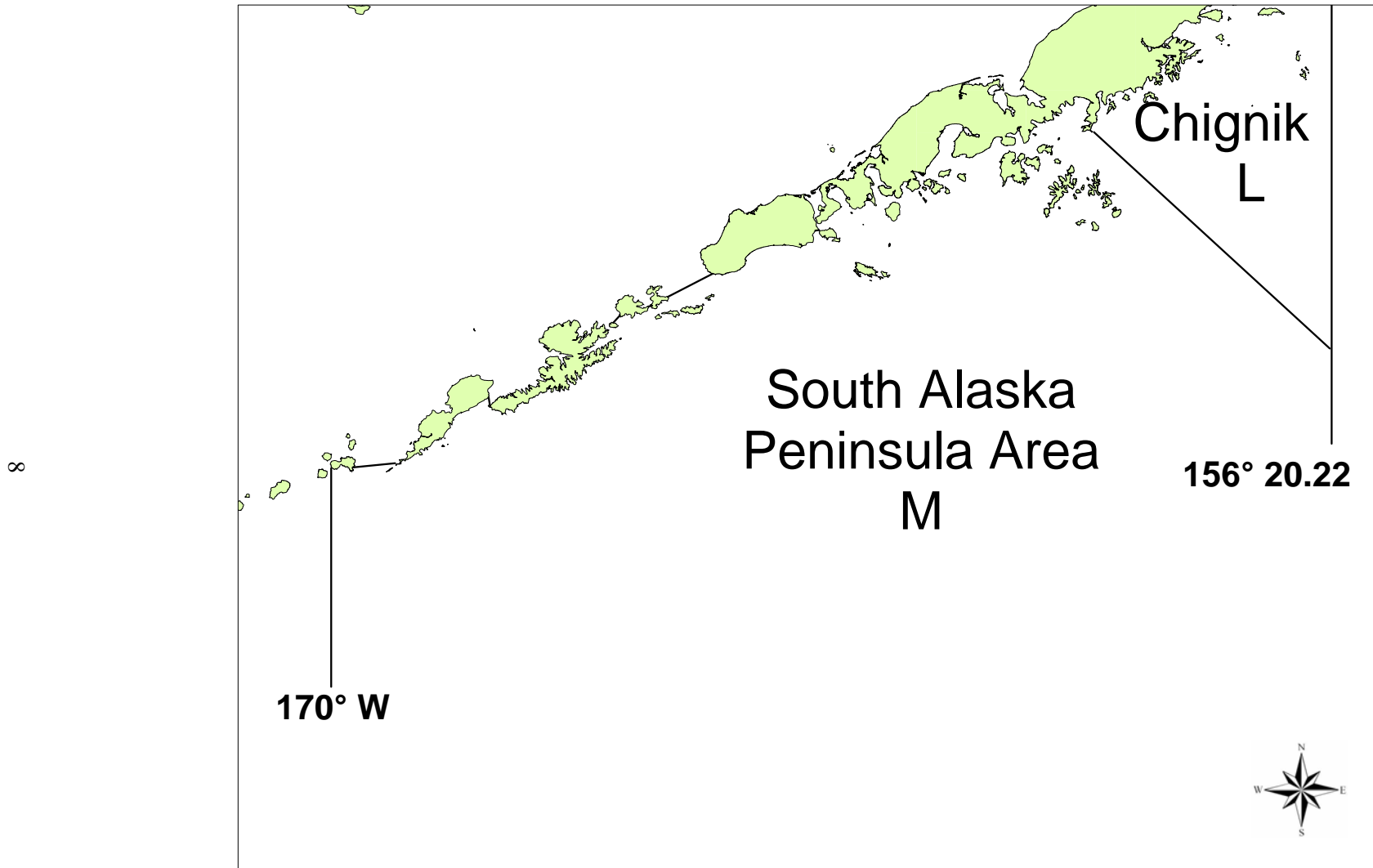


Figure 1.—South Alaska Peninsula Area for state-waters Pacific cod.

APPENDIX A. LISTING OF CONTACT PERSONS

Appendix A1.—Listing of contact persons, by agency and location.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

web site: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/finfish/grndfish/grndhom4.htm>

Kodiak office

Mail address: 211 Mission Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Phone: (907) 486-1840
FAX : (907) 486-1824

Matrix Dispatch: 7894
Stratos Dispatch: 0083

Wayne Donaldson Westward Region groundfish/shellfish biologist
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Lynn Mattes Kodiak, Chignik, Ak. Pen. Assistant Area groundfish/shellfish Biologist

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nick_sagalkin@fishgame.state.ak.us
lynn_mattes@fishgame.state.ak.us

Dutch Harbor office

Mail address: P. O. Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692

Phone: (907) 581-1239
FAX: (907) 581-1572

Forrest Bowers Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Area Biologist
Krista Milani Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Assitant Area Biologist

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krista_milani@fishgame.state.ak.us

National Marine Fisheries Service

web site: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/>

Mail address: P. O. Box 1638
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Phone: (907) 481-1780
FAX : (907) 481-1701

Tom Pearson Gulf of Alaska management biologist

tom.pearson@noaa.gov

National Marine Fisheries Service Enforcement

Phone: (907) 486-3298

Commercial Fishery Entry Commission

Phone: (907) 789-6160
Fax: (907) 789-6170

APPENDIX B. REPORTING WORKSHEET

Appendix B1.—Listing of contact persons, by agency and location.



2007 South AK Peninsula Area Pacific cod fishery inseason reporting worksheet



| DATE and report period | Item 1 Area Fished (closest bay) | | Item 2 Number of Pots lifted | | Item 3 Pounds of Cod retained | |
|--------------------------|--|------|------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|
| | Number | Code | Number | Code | Number | Code |
| 24 hour period | | | | | | |
| Noon Day 1 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 2 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 2 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 3 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 3 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 4 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 4 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 5 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 5 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 6 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 6 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 7 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 7 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 8 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 8 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 9 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 9 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 10 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 10 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 11 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 11 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 12 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 12 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 13 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 13 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 14 | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM Day 14 to | | | | | | |
| 7:59 AM DAY 15 | | | | | | |

Instructions:

Report **DAILY (24 hour catch)** between **9:00 and 10:00 AM** to ADF&G Kodiak by any of the following methods:

*phone to ADF&G office (486-1840 or 1845)

*FAX to 486-1824

*e-mail to Nick_Sagalkin@fishgame.state.ak.us

*Matrix dispatch 7894

*SSB to WHM 29 'ADF&G Kodiak' on 4125 KHz

*Stratos 0083

Report **vessel name, area fished, number of pots lifted, and pounds of cod retained.**

Report in **Code**. Use code sheet assigned to your vessel at registration. Also code the area fished.

Do not combine reports. If one or more reporting periods are missed, report each day's catch individually.